



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Water Board Takes First Steps to Hire Facilitator for Aquifer Management Plan Process

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The Idaho Water Resource Board today passed a motion approving the selection of a facilitator, pending approval from the Department of Administration, for the process of developing the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer comprehensive management plan. The Board selected CDR Associates of Boulder, Colorado. CDR has 30-years experience in water resource planning in similar circumstances; the company will commit two people to the East Snake Plain Aquifer effort. As facilitator, CDR will assist the Board in developing a framework for an overall aquifer management plan to be submitted to Legislature in 2007.

The Board also approved two of loan requests. Enterprise Irrigation District was awarded an \$86,000 loan at 5.5 percent interest to be paid back over 15 years. Enterprise requested the money to replace a lateral canal with a pipeline to help improve water quality in the Teton River by eliminating a spill. Enterprise Irrigation District delivers water to approximately 6,000 acres in Fremont and Madison Counties. The Bonnie Laura Water Corporation near Emmett received a \$61,000 loan at six percent interest to be paid back over 10 years. Bonnie Laura requested the loan to repair a pair of wells damaged by excess mud in the casing. Bonnie Laura supplies domestic and irrigation water to 26 homes northwest of Emmett.

The Board also passed a pair of resolutions: The first commits the Board to lease lands from the State Department of Lands to construct several permanent monitoring wells on the Rathdrum Prairie. The second authorizes the Board Chairman to enter into an agreement with the State Office of Species Conservation to use \$2.1 million in Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery funds to develop permanent water transactions in the Lemhi Valley to benefit endangered fish.

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